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INFO WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 000146

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR STACY WILLIAMS; MELISSA ROSSER ON HAITI TASKFORCE ONE; USAID MAURA O'NEILL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID ECON PGOV PREL PREF HA GT

SUBJECT: Guatemala Response: Host Government Humanitarian Assistance Offers for Haiti

REF: 10 STATE 4854; 10 STATE 4909

In response to ref a, Pol/Econ Counselor delivered reftel points to Carlos Raul Morales, Director General for Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Morales said the GOG is deeply appreciative of the USG's coordinating role and response to the Haiti crisis, and agrees with the assistance priorities mentioned in reftel. Morales said that Guatemala has sent three humanitarian assistance flights so far, the first bearing a military search and rescue team and the other two bearing food. All were routed to the Dominican Republic, and Morales said the GOG's understanding is that most non-USG assistance is being routed to the DR. The GODR, he said, has urged the GOG to use the United Nations' (UN) Financial Tracking System discussed in ref b, and that the Government of Guatemala is in fact using the tracking system. Morales mentioned that a fourth flight left Guatemala the morning of January 20th for Haiti. The aircraft in question is a presidential aircraft, which President Colom authorized to carry a Guatemalan national UN employee back to Haiti to continue the search for her husband and son who are presumed dead.

ROBINSON